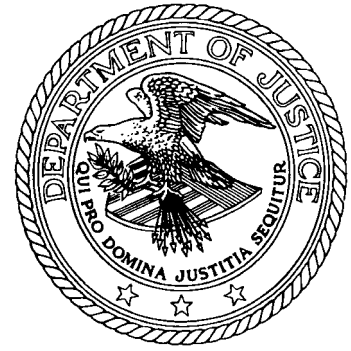


NEWS RELEASE



***OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
San Diego, California***

***United States Attorney
Carol C. Lam***

For Further Information, Contact:

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For Immediate Release

NEWS RELEASE SUMMARY - December 15, 2005

United States Attorney Carol C. Lam announced today the unsealing of six indictments charging eight anabolic steroid manufacturers from Mexico and twenty-three individuals with federal drug trafficking and money laundering charges. The indictments charge the eight largest Mexican anabolic steroid manufacturers, their owners, managers and distributors with Conspiracy to Import and Distribute Schedule III Controlled Substances, namely anabolic steroids, in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Sections 952, 960, and 963, and Sections 846 and 841(a)(1), and with Conspiracy to Launder Monetary Instruments, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 1956(h), (A)(I), (A)(ii) and (B)(I). The indictments also contain Criminal Forfeiture Allegations, based on Title 21, United States Code, Section 853 and Title 18, United States Code, Section 982.

According to Assistant United States Attorneys Timothy Coughlin and Laura Duffy, who are prosecuting the cases, the indictments of these companies and individuals are the result of a two-year investigation led by Special Agents and Diversion Investigators assigned to the Drug Enforcement

Administration- San Diego Field Division Office. The investigation focused on the drug trafficking activities of anabolic steroid manufacturing companies which customize their anabolic steroid products for illicit distribution and sale to the U.S. marketplace. According to the DEA, these Mexican companies are responsible for more than 80% of the anabolic steroids that are illegally smuggled into the United States. In conducting their illicit business, the manufacturers utilized business web sites to take orders from their U.S.-based customers.

Arrested in conjunction with the indictments was Mexican veterinarian Dr. Alberto Saltiel Cohen, the majority owner of the Quality Vet, Denkall and Animal Power companies. These three companies constitute the largest Mexican manufacturers of anabolic steroids and are responsible for more than 75% of all the Mexican steroids seized in the United States.

United States Attorney Lam said, "People need to recognize these illegal steroids for what they are -- dangerous, unregulated chemicals that can harm or kill their users."

"Working in concert with our partners in Mexico, this international operation will greatly diminish the supply of anabolic steroids produced in Mexico that are being sold illegally in the United States," stated John S. Fernandes, Special Agent-in-Charge, San Diego Field Division, Drug Enforcement Administration.

Kenneth J. Hines, Internal Revenue Service Criminal Investigation Special Agent-in-Charge for San Diego stated, "The tragedy of so-called performance enhancing drugs is that they unfairly exploit the hopes and dreams of young athletes. Money laundering is not a victimless crime. IRS Criminal Investigation is committed to financially dismantling those criminal organizations that promote illegal steroid use and the idea that excellence can be bought rather than earned."

United States Attorney Lam praised the Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force (OCDETF) for the coordinated team effort in this investigation. The OCDETF program was created to consolidate and utilize all law enforcement resources in this country's battle against major drug trafficking. Agents and officers from the Internal Revenue Service – Criminal Investigation, United States Marshals Service, United States Postal Inspection Service, San Diego Police Department and San Diego Sheriff's Department, as well

as the United States Olympic Committee Laboratory, University of California at Davis - School of Veterinary Medicine, and Mexican Law Enforcement PGR -Organized Crime Unit, assisted the DEA in this OCDETF investigation.

DEFENDANTS

Indictment # 1 **Case Number: 05CR1629L**

Companies: **Denkall -Denkall Dawes, Comerivet, S.A. de C.V.(1),
Quality Vet -Comercializadora Garvet, S.A. de C.V.(2),
Animal Power, S.A. de C.V. (3)**
Address: Av. San Pablo 79-C
Mexico City, Mexico
Web sites: www.qualityvet.com.mx; www.denkalldawes.com; www.animalpower.com.mx

Dr. Alberto Saltiel Cohen (4) **In Custody**
Mexico City, Mexico
Majority owner of Denkall, Co-owner of Quality Vet and Animal Power

Javier Garcia De La Pena (5)
Mexico City, Mexico
Minority owner of Denkall, Co-owner of Quality Vet and Animal Power

Joaquin Garcia-Rivas (6)
Mexico City, Mexico
Minority owner of Denkall, Co-owner of Quality Vet and Animal Power

Blanca Trevino (7) **In Custody**
Address: Laredo, Texas
Owner of a veterinary store in Nuevo Laredo, Mexico

Jorge Gomez-Espinoza (8)
Address: Cancun, Mexico
Owner of a veterinary store in Cancun, Mexico

Alberto Gomez Del Castillo (9)
Address: Cancun, Mexico
Owner of a veterinary supply business in Cancun

Sylvia Campos (10)
Address: Sacramento, California
Web site Distributor

Joaquin Orozco-Gonzalez (11) **In Custody**
Address: Mexico City, Mexico
Owner of a veterinary store in Tijuana

Armando Palacios-Angola (12) **In Custody**

Address: Mexico City, Mexico

Owner of a pharmacy in Rosarito Beach, Mexico

Luis Alberto Flores-Caballero (13) **In Custody**

Address: Mexico City, Mexico

Indictment # 2

Case Number: 05CE1630-L

Company: **Laboratorios Brovel, S.A. de C.V. (1)**

Address: Empresa 66,
Mexico City, Mexico

Website: www.brovel.com.mx

Arturo Bravo Valdez (2)

Address: Mexico City, Mexico

Current managing director of Brovel

Gaspar Eligion Romero-Sabido (3)

Address: Cancun, Mexico

Owner of a veterinary store in Cancun, Mexico, Web site distributor

Charles Cash Morone (4)

Address: Cancun, Mexico

Web site distributor

Michael Vincent Morone (5)

Address: Cancun, Mexico

Web site distributor

Enrique Javier Canto-Gongora (6)

Address: Merida, Mexico

Recipient of payment via electronic transfer for Web site orders

Indictment # 3

Case Number: 05CR1631-L

Company: **Laboratorios Tornel, S.A. de C.V. (1)**

Address: Av. Venustiano Carranza no. 24, Naucalpan Centro,
Mexico City, Mexico

Website: www.tornel.com

Luis Bravo Tornel (2)

Address: Mexico City, Mexico

Founder/owner of Tornel

Mauricio Bravo Berentsen (3)

Address: Mexico City, Mexico

General Manager of Tornel

Cesar O. Cotero Rodriguez (4)

Address: Tijuana, Mexico

Owner of veterinary store in Tijuana, Web site distributor

Indictment # 4

Case Number: 05CR1632-L

Company: **Loeffler, S.A. de C.V. (1)**

Address: Avenida San Pablo 79-C,
Mexico City, Mexico

Website: www.loeffler.com.mx

Jose Angel Garcia Hinojosa (2)

Address: Mexico City, Mexico

Owner and General Manager of Loeffler

Indictment # 5

Case Number: 05CR1634-L

Company: **Syd Group, S.A. de C.V. (1)**

Address: Edificio Geminis, Ventura Puente 999-34
Michoacan, Mexico

Website: www.sydgroup.com

Armando Gucman-Armenta (2)

Address: Michoacan, Mexico

Owner and General Manager of Syd Group

Amalia Lara (3)

Address: Michoacan, Mexico

Sales Manager for Syd Group

Indictment # 6

Case Number: 05CR1633-L

Company: **Pets Pharma, S.A. de C.V. (1)**

Address: Av. Sor Juana Ines de la Cruz No. 580
Mexico City, Mexico

Website: www.PetsPharma.com.mx

Ramon Vargas (2)

Address: Mexico City, Mexico

Majority Owner and General Manager of Pets Pharma

Eduardo Hernandez Carrasco (3)

Address: Mexico City, Mexico

Minority Owner and Manager of Pets Pharma

SUMMARY OF CHARGES

Conspiracy to Import Schedule III Controlled Substances, in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Sections 952, 960 and 963;

Conspiracy to Distribute Schedule III Controlled Substances, in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Sections 846 and 841(a)(1);

Conspiracy to Launder Monetary Instruments, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 1956(h), (A)(I), (A)(ii) and (B)(I).

Criminal Forfeiture Allegations, in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Section 853 and Title 18, United States Code, Section 982.

PARTICIPATING AGENCIES

Drug Enforcement Administration
Internal Revenue Service – Criminal Investigation Division
United States Marshals Service
United States Postal Inspection Service
United States Olympic Committee Laboratory
University of California at Davis, School of Veterinary Medicine
Mexican Law Enforcement PGR -Organized Crime Unit
San Diego Police Department
San Diego Sheriff's Department

An indictment is not evidence that the defendants committed the crimes charged. The defendants are presumed innocent until the Government meets its burden in court of proving guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.